

exhausted condition after spawning, or in search of suitable food which may abound in those localities. In any case, if they cannot be taken profitably for commercial purposes they should be left alone, to remain while they stay, unmolested until they return by the way by which they came, to the deep waters of the sea, there to join other shoals, and where in improved condition, at some future time, they will amply reward the labour of the more considerate and less reckless fishermen. We consider the habit of catching herring for manure to be inconsistent with the Christian civilization of the age, and that the practice should be strictly prohibited.

HERRING OFFAL.

19. We have already shown from unquestionable authority the evil effects upon the herring shoals of throwing offal or fish refuse into the sea, resulting, in the case of Sweden, in combination with day light net fishing, in banishing the herring from the shores of that country, for a period of 69 years.

All experience shows that the practice of throwing offal into the sea near the grounds frequented by the herring shoals, invariably results in scaring the fish away for a time, or driving them away permanently, and we consider the practice should be prohibited under heavy penalties. And that, as in the case of trawling, the prevention of the practice on the high seas, should be brought about by international arrangement.

In Scotland all herring offal is carefully placed in barrels and sold to the farmers for manure, at so much per cart load, in some places 25 cents, in some places 50 cents. Mixed with vegetable mould or black muck, it makes a most excellent compost for manuring purposes.

In some parts of Europe large quantities of oil are extracted from the offal of herrings, by the process of boiling in water in large pans, the water purifying the oil and making it suitable for commercial purposes. We think the law as to the disposal of offal should be strictly enforced.

CONCLUSION.

While striving earnestly and faithfully to fulfil the duties imposed upon us by the Government in the matter of this investigation, we desire to be permitted to say that we are, at the same time, animated by a strong personal interest in the welfare of the fishermen of the Maritime Provinces, and a strong desire to see such changes brought about, for the improvement of the herring industry, as will greatly improve the condition of the fishermen, and lead largely to an amelioration of existing evils, as well as to the establishment upon a sound commercial basis of this important branch of the commerce of the Dominion.

The Hon. Mr. Wells, a prominent citizen of the United States, some time ago visited the Maritime Provinces, carefully investigated the position and circumstances of the Canadian fishermen of the Atlantic coast, and satisfied himself as to what a hard struggle they have for an existence.

On his return to his own country he told his countrymen that the only farm the Canadian fishermen on the coast of the Atlantic had was the sea. That that was his sole patrimony, and that no man had a right to trespass upon it, or rob him of its products.

While amply protected from the encroachments of envious or covetous neighbours, let us hope that he may be assisted by his brother Canadians, in every way consistent with justice to the rest of the Dominion, in the profitable working of his estate and the development of its rich natural products, and its unbounded resources.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. GUNN,
M. G. McLEOD.

Delegates.

December 2th, 1889.